

Please Nominate Outstanding Educators to Participate June 25-26, 2024, at the TN Civics Academy.



Event Summary

Nominated educators will receive an invitation to participate in the Institute of American Civics' TN Civics Academy, conference on teaching K-12 civic knowledge and engagement. This year the conference will convene in Knoxville on the evening of June 24th, followed by a two-day session. The IAC is part of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs. The conference will include UT scholar presentations, workshops, educator panel discussions, and educational resources.

TN Civics Academy educators will receive invitations beginning this March. Attendees receive complimentary hotel accommodation for June 24 and 25, as well as free parking, meals, reception dinners, and educational materials. The conference program provides 14 hours of professional development credit. Educators leave with resources and materials, as well as becoming part of the IAC's academy community—having met colleagues from across the state.

Purpose

1. High schools across Tennessee have outstanding educators. The goal of this recognition is to support teachers across the state who succeed in bringing topics related to American civics education into their classroom and foster a spirit of civic engagement and civil discourse.
2. We recognize that political climate effects students and teachers; educators face challenges in educating America's youth on democratic citizenship particularly when current events polarize communities. Concurrently, we believe that combatting polarization and promoting civic knowledge in future generations is vital for our democracy.
3. To support teachers' professional development through content-rich presentations on American founding principles, history, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, economics, Supreme Court decisions, the Tennessee State Constitution, and more.
4. Empowering dedicated teachers by bringing them together and providing a space to discuss challenges and opportunities, to share successes and inspire their colleagues, and to gain new tools and strategies for teaching topics in civic education.

Eligibility

1. Nominees should be practicing, or recently retired, educators from public or private K-12 institutions; they should teach high school Social Studies *or* a subject, that includes any of the following civic education topics/skills: debate/public speaking, economics, government, geography, history, political science, law, contemporary issues, or reading/writing.
2. Candidates should demonstrate excellence in education and leadership. Many of our TN Civics Academy teachers are highly experienced, however new teachers are also encouraged to apply. Educators may select to nominate themselves if they are passionate about civic knowledge and engagement and would like to learn more.
3. Experienced teacher scholars may be invited to share their expertise.
4. Submit nominations here (tiny.utk.edu/2024_academy_nominations); we would appreciate your response **on or before March 15, 2024.** Direct questions to: **Institute.Programs@utk.edu**.

Thank you!

We sincerely appreciate your time & attention to this important initiative.